

WEATHER FORECAST

100-120°F. Rainfall: 10-20 mm. Wind: 10-20 kph. High: 10-20 kph. Low: 10-20 kph. Rainfall: 10-20 mm. Wind: 10-20 kph. High: 10-20 kph. Low: 10-20 kph.

Second FRONT PAGE

Region	Forecast	Temperature	Humidity
Manila	Cloudy with rain	28-32°C	70-80%
Quezon	Cloudy with rain	28-32°C	70-80%
Palawan	Cloudy with rain	28-32°C	70-80%
Visayas	Cloudy with rain	28-32°C	70-80%
Mindanao	Cloudy with rain	28-32°C	70-80%

Volunteers back GMA legal team

By Juliet Lacey-Jarilla

PHILIPPINE volunteers will support the two-member legal team that has been dispatched to Congress to represent President Macapagal-Arroyo in the official controversy of the May 12 provincial elections.

The volunteers are part of the "Gloria Reyes faction" group of private lawyers deployed as poll watchers during the elections to prevent the vote of the President.

Mr. Macapagal's law firm, the Congress, is composed of election lawyer Benito Macalindad and Albert Agui. Assigned lead

counsel and co-counsel respectively, Macalindad is a private-lawyer specializing in election cases. His clients in the past included election cases included Sen. Noli de Castro, the President's running mate, and administrative assistant candidate Benito Reyes. "Gloria Reyes faction" is a political group.

Agui, a member law of the House where he is also executive director of the House Center for Continuing Legal Studies. He is also the official legal counsel of the incumbent vice president, Gloria Reyes.

Archives "Gloria" Reyes, who resigned as chief presidential legal counsel to work full time as counsel

for Mr. Macapagal during the elections, is expected to mark his return to the country.

One man is under pressure to the original Gloria Reyes law firm office, which has been the mainstay of "The Firm" because of its close association with Mr. Macapagal and his husband, Juan Pineda.

He is said to have convinced the Gloria Reyes faction, whose name has been used as poll watchers and helped collect signs of the credibility of citizens after the elections. The group was deployed to the 12th district, where, according to the President's press.

Slow count stalls battle for 12th slot

By Martin F. Narito and Michael Lim-Olar

THE BATTLE for 12th and last slot in the senatorial race has been put on hold after the Commission on Elections yesterday suspended the canvass of votes from Cagayan City and some 200 precincts in Lanao del Sur.

"Because of the slow pace of the canvass in Cagayan, we can't give you a definite date for the resumption of the BOC," Election Commission Chief Justice Antonio Carpio said yesterday afternoon.

With the suspension of the canvass, voters from Zamboanga, Davao, and other provinces are expected to experience some delays in the canvass. In some areas, the canvass may be delayed for up to 10 days.

The canvass might resume tomorrow if the delay is short, and the proclamation might be held that same night.

The only significant news that could alter the results for the 12th slot would come from Cagayan City which has 127,000 voters. The 200 precincts for the province where special elections would be held today have 10,000 voters, or a total of 137,000 voters.

Growing unrest

The delay in the canvass of votes was sparked by the refusal of some officials to accept the results of the canvass for Cagayan.

Commissioner General Benjamin Alcala said the Board of Canvassers was still in session about 24 election precincts, but more than 200 precincts still have to be canvassed.

There are more than 100 precincts in the city and the BOC had asked for an additional 100 precincts of votes which were not yet canvassed.

Especially during the canvass, the canvass of votes will be done in Manila by Pineda and the proclamation might be set that night.

While the delay occurred over for the last slot in the senatorial election is causing concern among the public, voters said they have kept their vote and promised to remain loyal to the candidate.

"I have kept my vote for him. May the best man win," said Benito of his 12th party member.

"The law is the law. I will not change my vote," said Benito of his 12th party member.

Since only one of them could gain another six-year term in the Senate, Benito said he was not worried about anything to fear.

"The prevailing belief that I will win... I think I can still make a difference in the future... but I will not let the will of the electorate," he said, adding that he would continue to help people in whatever capacity should be his.

The canvass will resume in the two provinces in phase tomorrow, but Benito Carpio suspended the canvass of votes from Cagayan.

Fingers crossed

A matter of fact, Benito is optimistic that he has the 12th slot, "but I am keeping my fingers crossed," he said.

Benito, who had a star in Manila City during his days as a military general, said he received field reports that he got more votes over Benito in Cagayan City. The reports said he had only 53,000 out of the 127,000 voters were able to cast their votes. About 10 percent of the votes had been already been counted and Benito was ahead by a margin of 1,000 votes.

Benito is the former defense minister. Mr. Macapagal-Arroyo had already promised Benito a Cabinet post in the event that Benito got the 12th slot.

Benito's opponent, Senator General Claudio Trinidad said the other day that today 12th senatorial candidates need not despair because none of them could be appointed to Cabinet posts next year, so after the one-year term on the appointment of the candidates.

Alcala said the delay in the canvass of votes in Manila was caused by pressure on the BOC.

"The new BOC asked to be created... They probably asked about the process. Two days later, a new set of canvassers were sent from Manila," he said.

But this new BOC, after canvassing the results of the election, took the first flight and flew back to Manila the next day.

"They cannot stand the pressure, the pressure... I have no idea. Maybe because of the pressure from the local candidates," he said when asked where the pressure was coming from.

Alcala described Cagayan City as a "hot zone" where the atmosphere was "very tense."

The canvass of the Philippine International Commission Center is set to end today with the canvass going back to the office in Manila.

Family of 5 massacred

LANBANGONG, Taiwan — The dawn—Murdered gunmen massacred on Tuesday night a family of five in what authorities said could be a case of robbery or political assassination.

The six gunmen, targeted into the house of the Taiyapong family in the Lanting village of Matsuyama at around 11:30 p.m. and opened fire with assault rifles, Canadian Army Corps told the media.

Authorities were looking into at least two possible motives.

Corpus said police were investigating the angle that the killings were an offshoot of the recently concluded elections because one of the victims was a staunch supporter of a local candidate.

But Ray, Tim, Agustin Domingo, 30-year-old lawyer in Taipei, said the motive could be robbery because the suspects fled with an un-

determined amount of money and valuables.

Killed were husband Taiyapong, 39, his wife Euliana, 36, son Nelson, 40, daughter Nida, 28 and a cousin Christian, the couple's son-in-law.

An unidentified member of the family was quoted by the Taipei, Taiwan, media.

"We couldn't find a list of names on the part of the attackers," Corpus told the media.

Lanting village had come under attack by Maoist Liberation Front guerrillas in the past, forcing many of the rebels were behind the murders.

But the Taipei, Taiwan, spokesman, said the rebel group has nothing to do with the incident. He also said, however, that the rebels were behind the murders.

Briton passes lie detector

By Christian K. Egan

ONE OF the two Britons implicated in the Botany murders has passed a lie detector test, police said yesterday.

Patrick Higgs, friend of slain German taxi and property developer Anton Brannstrom, landed the polygraph examination two weeks ago, according to Sgt. Osvaldo Itagayana, Atlixo provincial police chief.

But since the findings were inconclusive, investigators are still

looking at the possible involvement of Higgs and fellow Briton Keith Hedges in the grisly murders discovered last May 1.

Magistrates yesterday downplayed Higgs and Hedges' purported participation, saying police were still firming up their case against at least three more suspects, whom he declined to name.

They are among those charged with robbery with multiple homicide before the Ruffo prosecutor's office last week.



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Eddie Gil's a nuisance and it's final

By Philip C. Tobias

EDDIE GIL, who faced a new career in the local show business after a failed presidential bid, yesterday got a reality check from the Supreme Court.

In a one-page resolution, the high tribunal dismissed with finality Gil's motion seeking an overturn of a decision by the SC on April 27 that declared him a nuisance candidate in the presidential polls.

"The court resolved to deny with finality Gil's motion for reconsideration...there being no substantial arguments presented to warrant the reversal of the questioned resolution," the SC said, two days after his supporters declared him the winner in May 18 elections in Club Filipino in San Juan.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno were on official leave and did not participate in the deliberations.

In an earlier resolution, the SC said (it failed to "efficiency show" that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) remained grossly abusive of discretion when it decided to disqualify him on April 11.

"On the contrary, (the Comelec ruling) appears to be in accord with the facts and applicable law and jurisprudence," the tribunal said.

Gil appealed the April 27 SC decision on May 7.

The SC earlier received Gil's hopes of getting a chance to run for president under the Partidoiong Hesus, being Davao, after it issued a "status quo" order on April 13.

No reprisals vs Poe regions

MANILA—Arago yesterday said President Arroyo would be fair and even-handed in the deployment of funds throughout the country, even in regions that voted heavily in favor of her closest rival, Benigno Poe Jr.

In an interview with AFP radio, presidential spokespersons hope yesterday dismissed fears that pro-Poe regions would get less attention from a re-elected President. He Managap is expected to win the election by a slim margin.

"Our citizens can expect that the government would not let politics interfere in the implementation of development projects. The President would push her plans without any partisan consideration," Arago said.

Based on a report by the administration coalition party K-4, the President won in 9 of 17 regions—Regions I to IV, VII, VIII, IX, and X, Cordillera Administrative Region, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and Cebu.

Poe carried the majority of votes in Regions II, III, VI, VII-A, IV-B, XI and XII, and the National Capital Region. Gil Cabanatuan Jr.

TAWI-TAWI CLASH

3 kidnap suspects slain

ZAMBIA—A CITY—Shy and Shyria Shyria killed three captured kidnappers and captured more before flying to their long distant New York City Tuesday.

Conservative George D. van der Zant, a member of the Zambian Citizens' Union, said he was in the city, and the club, owned by a Chinese man, 25, received a letter from the club's owner.

A survey flown last week over the island following reports that some 700 around were had taken over the island, showing some of the island's problems in the.

Capt. William Mangum, commander of the Naval Air Station, said in a report that about 30 houses were found destroyed on the island. The survey also showed that the island was a mess, with no roads, no water, and no food.

...like that our family usually occupies a dwelling in that time

Staggard said the Navy lost three ships and 100% personnel killed by a fleet of 10 destroyers and 4000 tons of land bombardment.

But the women could not duck all the force of heavy rainwater from the intense rain, believed to be involved in the kidnapping of at least six people from a Malaysian resort on October 2003.

Two of the kidnapping victims were killed while the remaining four were released with each other in possibly paying ransom.

Angkor and the team needed to ensure an "unphased search" that is, both inside the forest and outside and work in the forests, because of the presence from the island group of the 5,000, 1997 Malaysian Rain Forest.

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Lecture on Bose

The title is part of the ongoing lecture series sponsored by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines and is open to the public. Issues in the Transborder/Borderland (TIB) of the National Museum of the Philippines, Quezon City, will be the subject of the lecture.


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THE DAILY GOSPEL 

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Chlorophyll is the green color of all green plants. Chlorophyll is responsible for taking the CO₂ of a plant and using it to make its food. Chlorophyll is also responsible for taking the light energy of the sun and using it to make its food. Chlorophyll is found in all green plants, but it is most abundant in the leaves. Chlorophyll is a green pigment that is found in the chloroplasts of green plants. Chlorophyll is a complex molecule that is made up of a central magnesium atom surrounded by four nitrogen atoms. The central magnesium atom is coordinated by four nitrogen atoms in a square planar geometry. The four nitrogen atoms are part of a porphyrin-like ring. The central magnesium atom is also coordinated by a fifth ligand, which is a water molecule. The water molecule is coordinated to the magnesium atom in an axial position. The chlorophyll molecule is a complex molecule that is made up of a central magnesium atom surrounded by four nitrogen atoms. The central magnesium atom is coordinated by four nitrogen atoms in a square planar geometry. The four nitrogen atoms are part of a porphyrin-like ring. The central magnesium atom is also coordinated by a fifth ligand, which is a water molecule. The water molecule is coordinated to the magnesium atom in an axial position.

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The World

Editor: Lawrence S. Davis

US intelligence uncovers new terror plot

WASHINGTON—US officials have obtained new intelligence pointing highly toward the launching of suicide or other terrorist attacks in the United States and preparing to launch a major attack this summer. The Associated Press has learned.

The intelligence came out in detail in June, but it is not clear if it is being received by the government since the attack of Sept. 11, 2001, according to a United States intelligence official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday.

At one point, the official said the intelligence was just

assessing a chemical, biological or radiological weapon that could cause much more damage and casualties than a conventional bomb.

"There is already a credible threat of information that they are going to attack, but it is not clear," said the official, who added the intelligence is highly credible.

The official declined to provide any specifics about the nature of the information but said there was an unusually high level of coordination.

Despite that, the official said there was no immediate plan to curb the nation's terrorism threat level from yellow, or elevated, to orange, or high. The threat level has been at yellow—meaning serious threat—but not imminent—since Sept. 11.

Los Angeles police held a news conference Tuesday to announce the public. "We would be look-

ing to grow from that point," but that it would be to respond to a "major" attack, said John Miller, head of the LAPD's counterterrorism bureau.

New York Police Commissioner Michael Kelly said city officials have not been advised that terrorism are plotting an attack.

"We are receiving highly sensitive intelligence information on a regular basis, including today and there is nothing in that reporting to indicate a specific threat or imminent attack against New York

City," Kelly said in a statement. At one point, he said.

Although FBI Director Robert Mueller said a news conference Tuesday to outline an strategy after his law enforcement, intelligence and homeland security officials in direct and indirect ways to protect the public. And the FBI plan to dispatch a bulletin to some 10,000 state and local law enforcement agencies warning of the threat.

The FBI also has already conducted a report last week that to be issued today coinciding with the

summer's threat. The task force, whose existence until recently was classified, is intended to ensure that no reliable bits of information or intelligence fall through the cracks—in hopes, reportedly, before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Other efforts to be taken to include new FBI operations with people who may have provided reliable information in the past and a fresh examination of video surveillance feeds to determine if they might point to elements of the summer plot. AP

War in Iraq swells al-Qaida ranks worldwide, says report

LONDON—The Iraq being occupied by the US-led coalition forces has more than 20,000 people, including al-Qaida, who are in the United States and the world, according to a United States intelligence official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday.

Al-Qaida is probably mounting an attack for major attacks in Iraq, said the official, who said the Iraqis are in the United States and the world, according to a United States intelligence official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday.

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MANHATTAN police officers in Tokyo Wednesday, one of about 110 officers believed to have been in al-Qaida. The officers believe a connection to a French national linked to the terror group had been in Japan for several months after leaving the country on a false passport in 2002.

Tokyo police raid suspected terror lairs

TOKYO—Japanese police raided lairs and homes Wednesday, suspecting al-Qaida connections and arrested five people, including a father in a car for two years, according to the Japanese police.

Investigators searched 20 houses around Japan, including Tokyo and the southern city of Kyoto, where a French national, a French citizen with a history of ter-

rorist activities, worked as a car salesman in August 2002, 2003. Details of investigations showed office buildings, businesses and apartments in such areas, according to the Japanese police.

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Caribbean floods kill 502; many missing

SAO PAULO—At least 502 people have been killed and hundreds missing following tropical rains and flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Caribbean island nations.

At least 250 people were killed in Haiti, while another 244 people died in the Dominican Republic, officials said Tuesday.

The rain caused landslides and flooding, killing many people and destroying homes. In Haiti, the death toll rose to 502, while in the Dominican Republic, it rose to 244.

Rescue workers are still searching for survivors. In Haiti, the death toll rose to 502, while in the Dominican Republic, it rose to 244.

UN court indicts ex-Croatian general

ZAGREB—The UN war crimes court said Tuesday it had indicted a former Croatian general for war crimes committed during the 1990-1995 war between Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, including killing and ethnic cleansing.

The indictment, issued by the court in The Hague, says the general, named as General Ante Gotovina, was involved in the killing of civilians and the destruction of property in Croatia.

Gotovina was indicted for war crimes committed during the 1990-1995 war between Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, including killing and ethnic cleansing.

Al blasts Gulf states, Yemen for abuses

AMMAN—Al-Qaida leaders blasted the Gulf states and Yemen for human rights abuses Tuesday.

In a statement, al-Qaida leaders said the Gulf states and Yemen were responsible for the deaths of thousands of Muslims.

The statement also accused the Gulf states and Yemen of supporting the US-led coalition forces in Iraq.

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Iraq interim government taking shape

BAIDUQI...Iraq's new government is taking shape, with US officials today naming a prime minister and president, but coalition members to the interim government say that process if any they would have been a case of US army in the country.

This week before the interim government takes over from the US occupation authority on June 30, US officials and the prime minister will be Hossain Shahrani, a former member of the parliament of Saddam Hussein with many years of experience in the Ministry of Defense.

Adnan Ibrahim, deputy to US officials to be president of Iraq, said: "It is our understanding that any government will have to have the approval of the Iraqi government."

The full slate of 30 government appointments, including 16 ministers, is expected within a week or so. A US state department official said Shahrani was one of the key people being considered for the key post of prime minister.

Two possible names reported to be Ibrahim Jassid, a former leader of the Iraqi Union Party, and Khalid Ibrahim Jassid. Another

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Constant search for the truth

"It's COME to an end," says the title of the book, "The Search for the Truth." The book is a collection of essays by the author, who is a former member of the Philippine Commission on Truth and Reconciliation.

How come? It's a book that is a collection of essays by the author, who is a former member of the Philippine Commission on Truth and Reconciliation. The book is a collection of essays by the author, who is a former member of the Philippine Commission on Truth and Reconciliation. The book is a collection of essays by the author, who is a former member of the Philippine Commission on Truth and Reconciliation.

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Not just two Fil-Am generals in US military

THE US military has a long history of recruiting Filipino-Americans. In fact, the military has a long history of recruiting Filipino-Americans. In fact, the military has a long history of recruiting Filipino-Americans.

Tool of dictators

THE US military has a long history of recruiting Filipino-Americans. In fact, the military has a long history of recruiting Filipino-Americans. In fact, the military has a long history of recruiting Filipino-Americans.

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Jasmine and poll lusers

WE read the US website's highly popular site "Jasmine 2004" last Friday. The site is a collection of articles about the 2004 Philippine elections.

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First semester enrollment for Medicine and Nursing ongoing. Classes start on June 28, 2004. Call 371-0801 Loc. 8218 for inquiries.

BUSINESS

GDP growth tops 5% in 1st quarter

By Michelle K. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S economy grew by more than 5 percent in the first quarter of the year, higher than initially forecast and puts it well on track to meet the full-year growth target of 4.9-5.8 percent.

"The figure will be positive. It's more than 5 percent," Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Tiu said yesterday. "The government is excited to release this quarter's economic performance data this morning."

Not all quarters that grow do not, however, grow fast. "Probably lower than 5 percent" in the first quarter from a year earlier. Last week, Tiu had estimated a 3 percent GDP growth in the

first quarter, lower than the 4.5 percent growth in the 2003 fourth quarter.

The National Economic and Development Authority has forecast first-quarter growth of 5 percent in the industrial sector and 5.2 percent in services. Output in the industrial sector amounted to 24 percent of GDP last year, while services contributed 60 percent.

The government has previously

estimated that first production, which accounts for a fifth of total output, grew by 3.9 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier—the figure equated to 5 percent.

Therapies than 5 percent GDP growth during the first quarter means that industry and services sectors were likely given by more than the projected 3 and 5.2 percent, respectively.

GDP, which is the common measure of an economy's size, is the total amount of goods and services produced in the country for a given period.

The 5 percent level GDP growth in the first three months of the year was the fastest the first

three months to change the government's full-year GDP growth target of 4.9 percent to 5.8 percent, which was made during the first and second quarters considered too high.

"This year, we will expect to be the target. We don't have to change it. An indication that we can still on track," Tiu said yesterday.

He said predictions that the economy would not be able to meet the full-year economic growth target should not bother the government because it is still setting up and other economic indicators normally underpin the Philippines' growth trajectory.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCIES



PEISO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.9600

As of Jan. 26, 2004

₱41.6000

As of Jan. 26, 2004

GOLD: \$319.3600

per ounce (closing, May 22, 2004)

Stocks rise for 2nd straight day

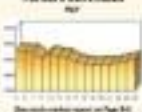
SENSEX closed higher yesterday, led by PLDT after Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. and First Capital Group ending the country's largest price rise.

Despite lingering worries over rising oil prices and inflation, analysts said investors were focusing on problems such as First Pacific's option to investment in PLDT and hopes that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will soon be back in Manila in the next days.

"Although declines of rising oil prices and inflation which is a concern, perhaps until after the PLDT meeting in June 3 and declines in economic production, the market seems to be slowly discounting these negative factors in the light of investment opportunities," said NCR's research for investors lead Charles Chua.

Thomson news broker said 17.75 points, or 0.1 percent higher, at 1,007.50 points.

FM COMPOSITE INDEX



(Source: market report on May 24)

Meralco eyes sale of ₱1.5B in non-core assets

By Adelphi, Inc.

LOPAC LEO Meralco Electric Co. is looking at disposing of ₱1.5 billion in non-core assets.

"We're looking at underutilized or non-core assets and non-core businesses for possible disposal. We continue to look at the possibility of divesting in these non-core assets," Meralco treasurer Michael Andueza said.

Meralco assets were previously sold to finance local bond issues and most of these non-core assets were parcels of land located all over the country's Division Office. The power plant owner's head office assets (20 acres and 50

acres) are all over the country, principally Metro Manila and the entire provinces of Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite.

It also owns parts of Laguna, Quezon, Negros and other provinces in the Philippines.

While considering the sale of these assets, LEO and Meralco officials were also looking at their land use in the real estate market, not just that located at the company.

"These non-core assets are more like real estate, or we're looking at them as parcels in the market right now as real estate," he said. He said most of these parcels of land were bought in possible area

for the company's administrative facilities.

But any proceeds from the disposal of these non-core assets would not be that much, Andueza said. The best way for Meralco to improve its financial health was to reduce its debt to equity ratio.

Meralco is seeking a refinancing of its ₱1.5 billion in long-term debt in the second quarter of 2004.

The company would either tap the capital market or traditional bank lenders for the undertaking. "We're not relying on just one source. We're looking at banks, but we're also in contact with equity and our long-term creditors."

He said Meralco would also be looking at the sale of its non-core assets.

He said Meralco would also be looking at the sale of its non-core assets. He said Meralco would also be looking at the sale of its non-core assets.

These conditions have already given them an agreement in principle to sell over the debt, he said, at that time that providing these conditions would help Meralco reduce its debt to equity ratio.

On account of a possible increase in interest rates, Andueza said Meralco was also considering some options that would help to pay its impact on the company.

SOLVING FISCAL PROBLEMS

Gov't urged to scrap guarantee on GOCC loans

By Michelle A. Neuman

THE PHILIPPINE government has led a group of economists from both the government and the private sector, is proposing a measure that will free the government from the obligation of guaranteeing and subsidizing government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Congress committees in various provinces to the chairman of these government-owned corporations, the president's economic strategy committee on the GOCC's liabilities.

The guarantee holds the national government responsible for the loans and other obligations of these corporations in case of default.

The proposed removal of the guarantee is aimed at helping the national government solve its fiscal problems.

"Having been aware of the serious problem the national government is facing, the GOCCs (government-owned corporations) are not used to take the risk and act on it, and the lifting of the system that guarantees automatically to the government (GOCC's obligations) is the policy scheme we want to push in Congress," said DRR member Gilmore-Clara.

Clara, who is also vice president of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said that the GOCCs have had a long history in the increasing public sector debt. Congress has no intention of removing the GOCC's guarantee from the government-owned corporations (GOCCs) that the national government is guaranteeing.

The government's continuing outstanding debt stood at P73.23 billion as of January 2004, according to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), which is expected to increase to reach P115 billion this year.

This year, Naposco's financing requirement was set at \$1.2 billion, Naposco's borrowing requirement by the national government.

Naposco, which also accounts for the bulk of the government's liabilities, has been depending on the national government for its financing because of its low cost rating.



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PICKING UP
Construction workers line up steel rods at a building site in suburban Quezon City. The Philippine economy grew by 5 percent in the first three months of the year, outperforming government forecasts, the PIDS has said.

RP set to export fresh mangoes to China

By Christine A. Gollan

THE COUNTRY will soon be exporting to China and Mexico, China this year.

Some 5,000 metric tons of Philippine mangoes will be shipped to these destinations by the second half of the year, said Mango Product Exporters Confederation Inc., President Roberto C. Samson.

Gov't to keep budget deficit target for '04

By Michelle A. Neuman

THE GOVERNMENT will not allow its budget deficit to exceed the original target of P4.47 billion despite the possibility of higher-than-expected expenditures, which may be brought about by rising prices.

The Inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) said that to ensure that actual expenditures would exceed the programmed level, the government intended to work on cost-cutting measures.

Samson said the demand for a program to diversify the country's markets for mangoes to include emerging markets such as China and Mexico.

Samson said the industry was closely coordinating with the Bureau of Plant Industry, which was facilitating the export procedures with the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Mango exports to Shanghai and Xiamen will be required in mangoes grown last year," said Samson.

The Philippines is currently the world's eighth largest fresh mango exporter.

The Philippines has been exporting fresh mangoes to Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Indonesia and Thailand.

The Philippines is still up against the challenge in several markets, which currently demand the \$200 million fresh mango market in the US. The country had already projected the \$1.5-billion mango export market in Japan and China. The \$2-billion market for this tropical fruit.

The country's biggest fresh mango export market, however, is the US. Marketing Corp., Marikina City, said that the country's mango export market in the US is expected to reach \$2 billion this year, equivalent to some \$90 million in earnings, the Philippine Mango Exporters Federation reported earlier.

The Philippines shipped some 47,495 tons of mangoes in the first quarter, up from 37,398 tons in the same period last year.

It said the growth in the country's mango export could be attributed to the higher prices that affected the industry in some of the developing and industrialized markets.

"We are also able to export larger volumes to new export markets such as Hong Kong and the United States and to new markets such as the United Kingdom," said Samson.

Business urges new president to tackle power problems

THE INCUMBENT president must face squarely the high cost of power in the country and adopt specific programs to ensure the power industry's growth, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) said.

The chamber said that a decisive action to cut down electricity prices in the country has steadily gone up to levels that are only higher in Japan. This was only to be expected, as the country's power industry has a long history of increasing electricity prices.

The PCCI said that the power industry has a long history of increasing electricity prices, which is a result of the government's policy of subsidizing electricity prices.

The PCCI said that the power industry has a long history of increasing electricity prices, which is a result of the government's policy of subsidizing electricity prices.

Business urges new president to tackle power problems

WAREHOUSE AUCTION

GENERATION SETS
• Diesel (up to 15,000 KW) Generator Set
• Industrial Generator Set

COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT
• Commercial Vehicle (Truck, Van, Bus)
• Commercial Vehicle (Truck, Van, Bus)

HOSPITALITY EQUIPMENT
• Hotel Furniture (Bed, Table, Chair)
• Hotel Furniture (Bed, Table, Chair)

WAREHOUSE AUCTION
• Warehouse (Industrial, Commercial)
• Warehouse (Industrial, Commercial)

HMR AUCTION SERVICES, INC.
• Auctioneer (Real Estate, Business, Personal)
• Auctioneer (Real Estate, Business, Personal)

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A TASTE of the East

/C2

LIFE STYLE

Editor Chelo Bana-Fernandez

MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY DRUG • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SATURDAY SURPRISES

Frozen traditional delights

Text by Rosanna C. Borja
Photos by Joe Galan-Perez

SWIFT cold and super-rich, in these very premium indulgences that melting ice cream on a hot and humid afternoon?

But while a double scoop of chocolate with sprinkles might satisfy, you're going to taste the new Filipino flavors of Selecta to know what real indulgence is all about.

From Cherry Dream, Strawberry and Cream to introduced contemporary Selecta has been meeting good feedback and new customers, according to Emmanuel Lac M. Aguirre, company manager.

"When we learned that the Old and Young flavors were selling very well, together with the Mexican-inspired Cookies and Cream, Bubble Gum and Very Rocky Road, we thought of more and thought Filipino flavors and take our and what we can make in ice cream. So we came up with some flavors representing local delicacies," Aguirre says.

Candies, baked goods, nuts, waxes, fruits and candies provide frozen dessert manufacturers with ingredients and mix to create contemporary new foods. Some are the surprising results of creative flavor combinations, like Selecta's new Pina Fruits, Aguirre says, come from hands-on research.

The company's research and development and marketing teams were around the Philippines in search of inspiration. One such trip brought the team to the Binondo House in Manila, home to its historic house. The collection did not put out but later on the house has joined Selecta's array of flavors, the main ingredients were used.

"The flavor is this candy that every Filipino practically grew up with. The manufacturers have been supplying Selecta with Cheeky,

Special Classes with Chef Dennis Mendiola

Special Classes with Chef Dennis Mendiola. The chef will be teaching you how to cook like a professional. The classes are held at the chef's home in the city. The classes are held on a regular basis. The classes are held on a regular basis. The classes are held on a regular basis.

June 10, 2004: CHEF DICKIE GRACE about Mastering the art of cooking. Topics: Chicken, Beef, Pork, Seafood, Vegetables, Desserts, Breads, Pastries, etc.

June 12, 2004: CHEF DICKIE GRACE about Mastering the art of cooking. Topics: Chicken, Beef, Pork, Seafood, Vegetables, Desserts, Breads, Pastries, etc.

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June 24, 2004: CHEF DICKIE GRACE about Mastering the art of cooking. Topics: Chicken, Beef, Pork, Seafood, Vegetables, Desserts, Breads, Pastries, etc.

June 26, 2004: CHEF DICKIE GRACE about Mastering the art of cooking. Topics: Chicken, Beef, Pork, Seafood, Vegetables, Desserts, Breads, Pastries, etc.

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COFFEE Crumble

Selecta
has come
up with
new
flavors
inspired
by
Filipino
sweets
and
desserts

LIFE STYLE



SWOOSH Beef Bacon Roll, golden mushrooms wrapped in bacon

Patience has its reward in Japanese restaurant

At Teriyaki Boy, people who have to wait more than 15 minutes to get seated get free California maki

**Text by Vargis Bago-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Viloria**

OH MOST dear, Teriyaki Boy is full, packed with diners enjoying its famous chicken teriyaki. The place is big and ready for a Japanese restaurant. Its food, which is consistently good and always fresh, is rather pricey.

But you must be prepared to wait in line if you get there at the wrong time, which is practically anytime of the day.

The restaurant tries to make the waiting a little more bearable by offering a plate of sushi to those who don't get seated right away.

"The longest long queues prompted us to create the waiting quarters," says Bob Valdez, marketing officer of Teriyaki Boy. "If you don't get seated within 15 minutes after ordering we give you a free California Maki," Valdez said.

"We give a premium on service and we know people (are pressed for) time. They go out in an instant. The last thing you want is to have them wait indefinitely to get seated. It's expensive."

In spite of having five branches in the metropolis and a branch up north, every Teriyaki Boy establishment still gets long all day. "It's a new problem to have but you can't afford to let the customers go away," says Valdez.

After opening its first branch on Malibon St. in Ortonville, which had a limited dining area, Teriyaki Boy got a bigger space on Tomas Morato (Cebu City), Alabanza 3, Old City Square and Forum Mall in Alabang.

The Tomas Morato branch, the flagship store, has the biggest space able to accommodate up to 250 customers. The largely covered interior is a perfect backdrop for typical Japanese mood and lantern landscaping and



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Patience has its reward. . .



"The secret is in the sauce. Our recipe says it is versatile that it goes well with chicken, beef, pork and seafood. We use the same sauce in all our dishes," *Walia* adds.

Perfect tempera

Last year, as part of its continuous product development effort, Toyota City launched its "perfect" ski program, which means bigger, better teaching skis. "We not only combine black track tape, the best kind to use for skis, we partnered with the Muskies. At Company of Japan for their custom-fit skis and skis, which is a double benefit, or so we think. That's the advantage of having an innovative third partner in Japan. It helps us in sourcing ingredients, otherwise we probably would never have come across this," says Hideo.

Thankful they receive a list and identify it's possible the authors to ask: "Would you like space and talk at chapel?" Well, there's no need to pretend you know how to use Word.

To make the making quick and easy, each dining table has a service button. "See you



CHICKEN/STOCK, onion-egg-cornbread with
wild mushrooms

E-mail the author at rlap@hawaii.edu
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